

**From:** Debbie debbie@santiamwine.com  
**Subject:** Merlot tasting and prime pork loin with brandy-apple reduction  
**Date:** March 29, 2018 at 5:50 PM  
**To:** bwelsh@mind-over-media.com



Good Evening, We have a great wine tasting Friday night...We are reintroducing Merlot!

The grape that everyone likes to say they hate! Check out this line-up and tell me you aren't interested! It's going to be spectacular...

Dinner special: Grilled prime pork loin chop with brandy-apple reduction, garlic mashed, crispy brussels  
Reservations welcome, call 503-589-0775

When: Friday, March 30, 2018

Time: 4-8 PM

Tasting Cost: Full pour \$38 Half pour: \$21

#### **2014 Long Shadows Pedestal Merlot \$66**

I loved the 2014 Pedestal Merlot and it's 81% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Malbec and 2% Petit Verdot. It offers a downright voluptuous and incredibly sexy style in its ripe blackcurrants, toasted spice, chocolate and licorice aromas and flavors. Broad, expansive, layered and pleasure bent, with ripe tannin, it's a knockout Merlot that's going to have 10-15 years of drinkability. **95 Points Robert Parker**

**Hats off to Allen Shoup and his Long Shadows Group for receiving Winery of the year from Wine & Spirit Magazine**

#### **2014 Pepper Bridge Merlot Walla Walla \$54**

The 2014 Estate Merlot is a rich, concentrated beauty that gives up lots of ripe black fruits and chocolaty notes in its full-bodied, rounded, sexy style. Mouth-filling and nicely balanced, it's a classic 2014 to drink over the coming 7-8 years. The blend is 77% Merlot, 16% Cabernet Franc and 7% Malbec. **91 Points Wine Advocate**

#### **2014 L'Ecole Walla Walla Merlot \$38**

The 2014 Walla Walla Merlot (80% Merlot and 10% each of Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc) is another terrific red that shines for its sheer drinkability. Chocolate, dark fruits, leafy herbs and hints of earth all appear in this impressively concentrated, rounded, textured beauty. It's superb today, but will drink nicely for at least 6-7 years. **90 Points Wine Advocate**

#### **2013 Gundlach Bundshu Merlot Sonoma County \$34**

The 2013 Merlot Sonoma is a major winner and sleeper of the vintage as well as realistically priced. Dense ruby/purple to the rim, the powerful black cherry and chocolaty notes are full-bodied and the wine graceful, rich, full-bodied, opulent and irresistible. The mocha/chocolate component in the black fruit is sensational. Drink it over the next decade or more. **92 Points Wine Advocate**

#### **2014 Substance Merlot Northridge Vineyard Walla Walla WA. \$46**

Reviewed last year under the K Vintners label, the 2013 Super Substance Merlot Northridge is a serious effort that's reminiscent of a top flight Pomerol. It sports a deep ruby/purple color as well as ample black currants, plums, wet clay and earth in a rich, full-bodied, concentrated, layered package that's already hard to resist. Nevertheless, I suspect it will be even better with 2-3 years of bottle age and drink well over the following 10-15 years. **94+ Points Wine Advocate**

#### **2014 Merryvale Vineyards Merlot Napa Valley \$48**

The 2015 Merlot Coombsville offers plump, upfront notes of plums and Asian spices (maybe some cedar) to go with a medium-bodied, lightly textured, plump, balanced style on the palate. Drink it over the coming 5-8 years. **90 Points Jeb Dunnick**

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